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SUBJECT: GUIDANCE ON FARHAD ALIYEV AND ALI INSANOV CASES

REF: BAKU 472

(SBU) The Department is reviewing reftel draft press guidance proposed by Post. Pending further instructions, Post should respond as follows if asked for comment following the expected April 20 announcement of a verdict in the Insanov case:

--We are studying the verdict and await with interest the OSCE's evaluation of the conduct of the trial. All officials suspected of public corruption should be held accountable for their actions through a fair and transparent judicial process, a process that protects the rights of the defendants while ensuring that justice is served, free of political motivation.

If asked about the trial of Farhad Aliyev:

--We will closely monitor the proceedings against Mr. Aliyev with respect to their fairness and transparency.
RICE